Sub-Commission IV of the Indo-Pak Joint Commission, which deals with visa related matter be reconvened.

Allocation of Natural Gas to Rajasthan

*48. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rajasthan Government have sought bulk allocation of 20 million cubic metres of natural gas per day for setting up various gas based projects;

(b) whether it is a fact that bulk allocation from the existing HBJ gas pipeline had been made to other States but State of Rajasthan had been denied its share; and

(c) if so, what are the main demands of Rajasthan and by when the Central Government are expected to make the allocation of gas to Rajasthan for establishing new industries for economic and social uplift of desert State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. An allocation of 3.74 MMSCMD has been made for the fertiliser plant at Gadepan, the power plant of NTPC at Anta and Samcor Glass, Kota.

(c) The Rajasthan Government have asked for 20 MMSCMD of gas for power plants, fertiliser and methanol projects, LPG extraction, Petrochemical project and ceramic industries. The gas projected to be available along the HBJ pipeline is fully allocated and it is not feasible to consider additional allocation of gas at present.

New Railway Zonal Office in Madhya Pradesh

*49. SHRI GOVIND RAM MIRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the place of the proposed new railway zonal office in Madhya Pradesh has since been decided; and

(b) if so, its name and if not, by when the decision would be arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) The study group, which had been constituted for examining the existing geographical distribution of zones and divisions in the wake of Project Unigauge and the construction of Konkan Railway, has suggested a need for its rationalisation. This exercise may also entail the creation of some new zones and divisions.

Further processing for formulation of proposals and other related matters is being undertaken.

Regaining the U.N. membership by Yugoslavia

*50. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Yugoslavia has recently sought India's help for its regaining the U.N. membership; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken so far by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Implementation of policies Adopted at the SAARC Summit

*51. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the benefits accrued to India as a result of the recent SAARC Summit; and

(b) the measures being taken/proposed to be taken to implement the consensus arrived at the Summit?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) SAARC, being a regional organisation, aims at providing mutual benefit to all Member States. Its main objective is to promote the Welfare of the peoples of South Asia and to improve their quality of life by accelerating economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region. The 8th SAARC Summit held recently in Delhi has provided a new dynamism to the process of regional cooperation and all Member States, including India, would benefit from this cooperation which would promot collective self-reliance as well as mutual trust and understanding among the Member States.

The 8th SAARC Summit decided to bring into operation "SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA)" preferably by 8th November 95 or latest by the end of December 95. This will bring benefits to all Member States in terms of expansion of intra-SAARC trade. The Member States have also agreed to examine the possibility of establishing a free trade area in the region in order to accelerate the process of cooperation in trade and economic relations.

Poverty eradication, being an area of primary improtance, has received continuous attention of SAARC leaders who had earlier declared that, preferably by the year 2002 AD, poverty should be eradicated in South Asia through an agenda of action and pro-poor development strategies. The leaders at the Delhi SAARC Summit decided to designate 1995 as the "SAARC Year of Poverty Eradication" for which a Plan of Action was also agreed upon. The SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme was expanded to cover more categories in order to enchance the scope of people-to-people contacts. Several other decisions were taken during the Summit regarding women in development, children, youth, environment, eradication of illiteracy, science and technology, shelter etc.

(b) The measures to implement the consensus arrived at the Summit are taken by all the Member States in terms of organising workshops seminars, official meetings, export group meetings, training programmes etc. Ratification of SAPTA Agreement will be done by countries concerned and similarly, action for implementing decisions in areas like poverty eradication, environment, women, in development, youth etc. Will be taken by individual Member States.

India would take the following action for implementing the decisions arrived at the Summit: (i) A meeting of the SAARC Commerce Ministers would be organised in India in the beginning of 1996 to provide impetus to intra-SAARC trade under SAPTA.

(ii) Next regular Sessions of SAARC Council of Ministers and Standing Committee will be held in India in December 1995.

(iii) The SAARC Council of Ministers would also hold a commemorative session to mark the first decade of SAARC during its regular session in India in December 1995. The theme of the commemorative session would be "SAARC — Vision for the Second Decade".

(iv) The first round of meeting of three-tier mechanism will be held in India. The first and second tier of Secretaries will meet on 6—8 September 1995 and the Finance and Planning Ministers are likely to meet in October 1995.

(v) The second Special Session of the Standing Committee of Foreign Secretaries will meet on 25-26 August 1995 to review the role of the SAARC Secretariat and institutional mechanisms and activities of SAARC.

(vi) The SAARC Council of Ministers had requested its Chairman, India, to continue consultations with European Union Troika to explore possibilities of institutional cooperation between SAARC and European Union. The Minister of External Affairs intends to meet the European Troika in New York

during the forthcoming UN General Assembly Session for this purpose.

(vii) External Affairs Minister as the Chairman of SAARC Council Ministers was also requested to continue contacts with ASEAN to promote cooperation between SAARC and ASEAN. Consultations for this purpose would be carried out.

(viii) Ministry of Commerce has already initiated work to ratify SAPTA Agreement and the ratification procedure would be completed soon.

(ix) India, together with other Member States, will be observing the tenth anniversary of SAARC through celebratory events.

बेहतर कार्य-निष्पादन के लिए निजी क्षेत्र को सौंपे जाने वाले क्षेत्रों की पहचान

*52. **श्री अजीत जोगी** : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या रेलवे बोर्ड ने उन क्षेत्रों का पता लगाया है जिन्हें बेहतर कार्य-निष्पादन के लिए निजी क्षेत्र को सौंपा जा सकता है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है तथा इसका औचित्य क्या है;

(ग) क्या रेलवे बोर्ड से तीर्थ यात्री केन्द्रों सहित उन पर्यटन सर्किटों का पता लगाने का अनुरोध किया गया है जिनके लिए निजी क्षेत्र को विशेष पर्यटन रेलगाड़ियां चलाने की अनुमति दी जा सकती है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ङ) इस कार्य योजना को कब तक कार्यान्वित कर दिया जाएगा?

रेल मंत्री (श्री० सी०के० जाफर शरीफ) : (क) और (ख) निजी क्षेत्र की भागीदारी के लिए अब तक खान-पान, "अपने मालडिब्बे के स्वामी बनें" योजना के अंतर्गत मालडिब्बों का निजी स्वामित्व, पर्यटक गाड़ियां, स्टेशनों का सौंदर्यकरण/अनुरक्षण, गाड़ियों, में बिस्तरों की सप्लाई और अमानती सामान घर का परिचालन आदि जैसी आफ-लाइन गतिविधियां ही रखी गई हैं। आमान परिवर्तन, दोहरीकरण, विद्युतीकरण, चल स्टाक परियोजनाओं आदि के निर्माण-स्वामित्व-पट्टा-हस्तांतरण योजना के अंतर्गत निजी निवेश भी आमंत्रित किया गया है। सामान्य राजकोष से कम वित्तीय समर्थन मिलने के कारण भारतीय रेलवे द्वारा महसूस की जा रही संसाधनों की तंगी को पूरा करने के लिए तथा प्रतिस्पर्धा को बढ़ावा देने और कुशलता में सुधार लाने के लिए चुनिंदा निजीकरण को प्रोत्साहन दिया जा रहा है।

(ग) से (ङ) पर्यटन गाड़ियों के स्वामित्व, विपणन और प्रबंधन के लिए 1000 मिलियन रुपए की योजना, जिसमें महात्वपूर्ण पर्यटन स्थल और तीर्थ स्थल शामिल हैं, में एक विश्वव्यापी "बोली के लिए निमंत्रण" मई, 1994 में जारी किया गया था और बोलियों के मूल्यांकन के बाद 4 लोकप्रिय पर्यटक सर्किटों पर 5 पर्यटक गाड़ियां चलाने हेतु निम्नलिखित पार्टियों को ठेके प्रदान किए गए हैं:—

सर्किट	पार्टी का नाम
1. दिल्ली-जयपुर-आगरा-ग्वालियर-झांसी (खजुराहो)-वाराणसी-लखनऊ-दिल्ली	(1) मैसर्स सटलिंग हालीडे रिज़र्ट्स इंडिया प्रा०लि०, मद्रास।
2. बंबई-औरंगाबाद (अंजता/एलोरा)—नांदेड-सिकंदराबाद-हैदराबाद-पुणे-बंबई	(2) मैसर्स एस०एस० पाटिल, सिकन्दराबाद।
3. गोवा (माडगांव)—मंगलोर मैसूर (बैलूर/हेलबिड)—होसपेट (हम्पी)—बेंगलूरु-गोवा (मडगांव)	(3) मैसर्स ईस्टवैस्ट ट्रैवल एंड ट्रेड लिंक्स लि०, नई दिल्ली
4. बेंगलूरु-मैसूर-मद्रास-कोडैकानल रोड-कन्याकुमारी-तिरुवनंतपुरम-कोचीन-मेट्टुपालैयम (उदगमंडलम)-बेंगलूरु	(4) मैसर्स सटलिंग हालीडे रिज़ार्ट्स इंडिया प्रा०लि०। मद्रास और (5) मैसर्स एल०एस० पाटिल, सिकन्दराबाद।

चुने गए पर्यटक गाड़ी परिचालकों को आशय पत्र पहले ही जारी कर दिए गए हैं। इन पर्यटक गाड़ियों के निर्माण और शुरू करने के लिए लिया जाने वाला अनुमानित समय करार पर हस्ताक्षर की तारीख से एक वर्ष अर्थात् 1996 के अंत तक होगा।